



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners
Professional Counselor Examiners Committee
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



JOHN J. HOFFMAN
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PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE **PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES** **MAY 1, 2014**

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair, William Green called the meeting to Order at 9:48 a.m. in the Hudson Conference Room, 124 Halsey Street, 7th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

William Green, Committee Chair
Ketrin Saud Maxwell, Committee Vice-Chair
Peter Economou, Committee Member
Diane Licht, Committee Member

Absent:

W. Michael Shea, Committee Member
Dana Kaspereen, Committee Member

Also Present:

Shirley Dickstein, Deputy Attorney General
Rachel Glasgow, Regulatory Analyst
Milagros Collazo, Executive Director
Michela Ross, Government Rep
Agnes Almeida, Administrative Staff

Committee Chair, William Green announced the presence of a quorum at 9:49 a.m.

In accordance with Chapter 231 of P.L. 1975, more commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing to the Office of the Secretary of State, The Star Ledger, The Trenton Times, The Record and The Courier Post. Adequate notice of this meeting was also posted on the Committee's web page.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 3, 2014 Professional Counselor Examiners Public Minutes

Upon motion by Committee member, Peter Economou, seconded by Committee member Diane Licht, the Committee voted to approve the April 3, 2014 Public minutes as corrected. Voting in favor: all. Committee Chair, William Green abstained.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Kristen Ecklund, School Psychologist, LPC applicant

Ms. Ecklund presented the Committee with her LPC application. *The Committee advised Ms. Ecklund that applications are confidential and cannot be discussed in Public Session.*

The following members of the public were present and did not comment:

A. Odum Castro, student at Felician College

B. Kellie Smock, student at Caldwell College

C. Marcus Hessler, student at Caldwell College

D. Melissa Crespo, student at Caldwell College

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. N.J.A.C 13:34-9A and 31 Custody/Parenting time Evaluations and or Termination of Parental Rights Evaluations

The Committee accepted the publication of this regulation as informational.

B. Rule 534 - Rules of Evidence

The Committee reviewed the draft of the Superior Court of New Jersey's "Rule 534 - Mental Health Service Provider - Patient Privilege." *Upon motion by Diane Licht, seconded by Peter Economou, the Committee voted to express its concerns with the draft of the uniform patient privilege, including the varying levels of privileged communications. The Committee also questioned whether personal notes taken within the session would be covered. Voting in favor: all.*

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Licensing Activity Report - Professional Counselors

	LAC	PC	LRC
Active	1181	3325	125
Expired	300	760	170
Inactive	39	278	43
*Pending	761	551	10
Reinstatements Pending	3	20	6
Suspended	1	4	0
Voluntary Surrender	0	12	1
Withdrawn	7	10	0

* in the pending category, aside from applications pending final Committee review/approval, are applications that are missing documentation, applications waiting on exam results, or have been abandoned.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Question regarding resignation of employees and abandonment of clients

The Committee reviewed the April 30, 2014 email inquiring if a clinician resigns from a mental health agency having given the 30 day notice as stipulated in the employment contract, does this present grounds for reporting the employee to the Committee for a violation of the code of ethics regarding the abandonment of clients?

The Committee determined that this is not a regulatory issue that would be within the Committee's purview. The Committee noted the benefits of joining a professional organization such as the American Counseling Association (ACA) where members can pose such questions to the organization's ethics officer.

X. COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Nothing to report.

XI. NEW JERSEY COUNSELING ASSOCIATION (NJCA)

Committee member, Ketrin Saud Maxwell presented the Committee with suggestions and questions from licensees that attended the NJCA conference on April 5, 2014.

XII. NATIONAL BOARD OF CERTIFIED COUNSELORS (NBCC)

Executive Director, Milagros Collazo informed the Committee that NBCC's annual conference will be held on August 7, 2014 - August 8, 2014 in Greensboro, NC.

XIII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Regulations Committee

Peter Economou reported that the Rules and Regulations sub-committee is next meeting on May 30, 2014 to continue review of regulations prior to the 2016 Sunset date.

B. FAQs Committee

Ketrin Saud-Maxwell presented the Committee with edits of the presented proposed Professional Counselor FAQs for its review.

C. Internet Counseling

Peter Economou reported that the Internet Counseling sub-committee is currently tabled.

XIV. FILED ORDERS

None to report.

XV. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for June 5, 2014

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2014

June 5, 2014	October 2, 2014
July 10, 2014	November 6, 2014
August 7, 2014	December 4, 2014
September 4, 2014	

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Ketrin Saud-Maxwell, seconded by Diane Licht, the Committee voted to move to Executive session at 11:00 a.m to review applications, plans of supervision, consumer complaints, and other pending disciplinary and confidential matters.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Peter Economou seconded by Ketrin Saud-Maxwell, the Committee voted to return to Public session at 2:00 p.m. to adjourn the May 1, 2014 meeting. Voting in favor: all.